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The China Mail

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1845

No. 19,871

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1926.

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A FAIR CHARGE?

MR. CROUCHER SUED BY
ARCHITECT.

WANCHAI GAP HOUSE.

Regarded Plan As "Scrap Of
Paper."

The question of what was a reasonable amount for an architect to charge for preparing a sketch plan of a house it was proposed to erect at Wanchai Gap arose out of a case before Mr. Justice Wood in the Summary Court this morning.

Mr. H. H. Bourne, architect, of Prince's Building, claimed \$900 from Mr. N. V. A. Croucher, broker, of Messrs. Benjamin and Potts, for services rendered. The claim was made up of items for "taking instructions, preparing a sketch design and making approximate estimate of cost by cubic measurement, or otherwise for a house to be built at or near Wanchai Gap." The claim was based on 1 1/2 per cent. on the approximated cost of house (\$60,000).

Mr. H. C. Macnamara was for plaintiff, and Mr. M. M. Watson for the defendant.

Mr. Macnamara, in opening, said that defendant had paid \$150 into court but plaintiff was unable to accept it as it was totally inadequate.

In June of last year, said Mr. Macnamara, Mr. Croucher contemplated having a house built on an eminence near Wanchai Gap. He had been in negotiations with the Government to buy a certain plot of land and the land had subsequently been bought by him.

A Sketch Plan.

Mr. Macnamara detailed interviews between the parties and Mr. Newhouse, of the P.W.D. It would serve no good purpose, he said, to call the latter, he remarked as Mr. Newhouse had stated that certain matters which they (plaintiffs) said had been referred to in his presence had slipped his mind. On July 28 of last year Mr. Croucher gave Mr. Bourne instructions to draw up a preliminary sketch plan which was to show the sort of house Mr. Croucher wanted. Mr. Croucher having detailed his requirements.

When the parties met again on August 6, continued Mr. Macnamara, matters had so far progressed that Mr. L. C. P. Rees had actually put pegs on the land to show the boundaries. Mr. Bourne had drawn two plans and discussion took place on them. One was more elaborate showing estimated cost of erection as \$60,000. The other plan was for a house, estimated cost of erection \$50,000. Although Mr. Croucher thought that \$60,000 was rather more than he wished to pay he preferred the first plan to the second and took it away with him. He had had it from that time to the present, said Mr. Macnamara.

In the following month, continued Mr. Macnamara, Mr. Bourne had an interview with Mr. Croucher in which the latter said that he was not quite sure whether he would authorise the building to go on at once yet he wanted the working drawings of the plans made out. He gave Mr. Bourne instructions accordingly.

Correspondence.

Letters between the parties were read, the first being that from Mr. Bourne to Mr. Croucher following the last interview referred to. Mr. Bourne said he would proceed at once with the drawing and specifications and would submit further sketch drawings of plans and elevation before the work was too far advanced. On completion he would give an estimate of cost. The letter further stated that the architect's fees would be 5 per cent. of the estimated cost of building and an additional 2 per cent. when everything was ready for the building to proceed.

In his reply the following day, Mr. Croucher said that he and Mrs. Croucher had been talking the matter over and they had decided that it would be better to wait a little longer before definitely committing themselves to the building. Mr. Potts would be returning from England shortly, and it was possible that any plans previously made might be upset. The letter stated that it was Mr. Croucher's intention to

COAL CRISIS.

CAN ONLY BE SETTLED BY
PARTIES THEMSELVES.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

London, August 4.
The House of Commons, by 173 votes to 19, defeated a Labourite proposal to adjourn for the Summer recess till August 17 instead of November 9 in view of the coal stoppage. The Labourites contended that the situation might change in the next three weeks and the House should be in session in order to effect a peaceful settlement.

Sir Austen Chamberlain said that sixteen days of Parliamentary time had been devoted to coal discussions without powerfully contributing to a solution of the dispute, which could only be ended by the parties thereto.

Thereafter practically an empty House, on a motion for adjournment, debated the "British American debt settlement, coal stoppage, and other matters."

The House of Commons meets at brief intervals at the end of August, September, and October to renew the emergency regulations if the coal dispute is still in existence.

Imported Coal.

Colonel G. R. Lane-Fox, Secretary for Mines, in reply to a question, mentioned that the present weekly rate of arrival of imported coal in Great Britain was about 600,000 tons.—Reuter.

VOTE AMONG MINERS.

Prospects of Acceptance Good.

Rugby, August 4.
Before Parliament adjourned to-day for the Summer recess, Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour Leader, asked what the Government was going to do in regard to the coal stoppage. He said that so far from the situation being nearer a settlement to-day, than it was a month ago, it was much further away from a settlement. Referring to the suggestions put forward by representatives of the Churches, on which a vote was now being taken in various mining districts, he said that he was informed that all the prospects being accepted by the bulk of

(Continued on Page 12.)

build but he preferred to see his way clear first.

Mr. Bourne did not take further action, continued Mr. Macnamara, although he had done up to that time considerable work at Mr. Croucher's request. In designing work of this nature there was a great deal in the original design, in fact as regarded the architect this was the major portion of his work although there was a certain amount of supervision work later.

Matters were left for some time, continued Mr. Macnamara, and it was in February of this year that Mr. Bourne, although willing to leave further drawing up of plans until Mr. Croucher had decided to proceed with the house, endeavoured to come to arrangement whereby he might be paid for work already done.

Mr. Croucher's "Evasions."

On February 4, Mr. Bourne had an interview with Mr. Croucher in the course of which the latter was of opinion that in dealing with professional work of this kind very little had been done. All that he (Mr. Croucher) had had was a "piece of paper." Mr. Croucher did not at that interview seem to realise that the "piece of paper" represented the devotion of a great deal of thought in preparation, commented Mr. Macnamara.

This brought them practically to the end of the story, continued Mr. Macnamara, the rest of the negotiations, he was sorry to say, being simply endeavours on the part of Mr. Bourne to obtain what he considered his rightful fees and "various evasions" on Mr. Croucher's part, with regard to paying. He practically said at first that he could pay nothing but he afterwards offered \$150 which was refused.

A letter subsequently written to Mr. Croucher by Mr. Bourne in which he suggested Mr. Croucher paying \$100 a month until the total charges were defrayed was referred to.

(Continued on Page 6.)

RENTS RAMP.

ALLEGED 3-FOLD INCREASE
IN KOWLOON.

PUBLIC SENSE OF DUTY.

[To the Editor of the "China Mail"]
Sir,—If there is anybody in Hongkong or elsewhere who maintains that landlords in this Colony do not take advantage of relaxations in the law, then I defy him to make out a case for one owner who has only sense of public duty is to rake in the almighty dollars.

In Kowloon—I will not say which part—there is a public dispensary which renders highly useful service that is appreciated by the hundreds. I have had recourse to it before and so have my children. The benefits it deals out are unbounded. We have the Government to thank for this. I am not certain of the facts as the institution may be purely maintained by a committee. That is neither here nor there. The crux of the matter is that the landlord has trebled the rent. Knowing fully well that the Government does not mind an increase in rent for such small premises the owner merely put on the screw as soon as the Rents Ordinance was rescinded. Had a Fair Rents Board been established it would have been the implied duty of the Government to appeal against the landlord's increase, but the Government may not have done so. This is another side issue. But if a landlord is callous enough to push up the rent like this, he should know better than to give a chance to the Government to put a stop to such things again. Not that the Rents Ordinance will come again even though Sir Edward Stubbs first took the view that control was necessary when some landlord rashly increased the rent of premises at East Point for scavenging coolies.

My advice to the Government is to stop the dispensary altogether. If a property owner can be so heartless the authorities have no option. The public must forego such a boon if it does not have enough spirit to kick.

But I have no sympathy for the Government. No response has been made to the many suggestions for a Fair Rents Board. If a declaration is coming, on policy, that a Fair Rents Board is unnecessary, impracticable, or inadvisable, I sincerely hope that the Government will use the case I mention as an argument, not for the poor tenant, but for the landlord.

Decontrol by all means, but in easy stages.

Yours, etc.,

DISGUSTED.

Hongkong, August 5.

DID NOT WORK.

A MOTOR DRIVER'S SECRET
PAST.

DETECTED BY POLICE.

A traffic officer's memory brought to earth a Chinese who was trying to obtain a motor car driver's licence by making a secret of his past.

The man had in the usual course informed Sergeant Baker that he had not held a licence before and was being tested as to his fitness when Sub-Inspector Alexander recognised him as a driver whose licence had been cancelled in 1922 for reckless driving.

When charged before Major C. Willson at the Central Magistracy this morning, with failing to inform the police that his licence had been cancelled when applying for a new one, the man denied that he was questioned on this point. This plea failed to satisfy His Worship, who imposed a fine of \$25.

PROF. LANGSNER ILL.

To-day's matinee demonstration in oculist science, which was to have been given at the Theatre Royal at 5.30 p.m., has had to be cancelled.

The "China Mail" is informed that Professor Langsner is ill with malaria and fatigue, and is therefore unable to conduct the demonstration. It is hoped to fix up another date for the matinee, the date to be announced in due course.

IN CONCLAVE.

M. BORODIN'S QUERY AS TO
AN ALLIANCE.

CHANG'S ATTITUDE.

M. Borodin, the Russian high adviser to the Canton Government, is once again in the limelight.

According to a Chinese report, he is reported to have asked what is meant by the alleged, proposed alliance between General Chang Kai-shek (commander-in-chief of Kwangtung) and Marshal Sun Chuan-fang (Tupan of Kiangsu, Chekiang and Fukien).

Marshal Sun is virtually "warlord of the lower Yangtze valley and that part of the south China coast excepting Kwangtung. His domains adjoin the sphere of the Nationalist Government in Canton. He has been reported to be seeking an alliance with General Chang Kai-shek, while other sources emphasise his allegiance to Wu Pei-fu.

At a meeting of the General Council of the Kuomintang, M. Borodin, and a Chinese member, are said to have alleged that General Chang had secretly despatched emissaries to interview Marshal Sun and the governor of Szechuan. Words attributed to M. Borodin and his Chinese colleague are that a cable was received from the Kuomintang branch in Kiangsu that cadets from the Whampoa Military Academy had been sent North; also that a similar message had been sent from Szechuan province.

It was resolved to hand the matter over to general (military) headquarters and the Whampoa Academy for investigation and report.

MISSING PLANE.

CANTON WAR MACHINE
VANISHED?

OFF TO FRONT.

One of Canton's war aeroplanes is reported to have been posted missing for some days, when en route to the front in Hunan.

This machine is said to have been specially equipped for fighting purposes, being one of the batch recently imported from Russia.

The plane jumped off from Shuiukwan on July 28, for a base nearer the scene of operations. After a delay of over a day it had not arrived there nor returned to Shuiukwan, and Canton headquarters have no inkling of what has happened to it.

Inquiries are proceeding.

CANTON'S STRIKES.

The strike of postmen in Canton has extended to other parts of the territory under the control of the Nationalist Government which has not announced any official action in the matter.

The newspapers are still suspended as the workmen remain "out." A vernacular report states that the printers employed by the political administration have also come out. The writer poignantly asks if their "strike" will be interpreted as an act contrary to the interests of the Canton Government?

THE WEATHER.

For the 24 hours ending at noon to-morrow, the weather forecast is East winds, fresh; variable, showery.

The Observatory forenoon report states that pressure has increased considerably over N. E. Japan. Changes elsewhere are slight. Depressions lie over N.E. China, to the north-east of Japan and to the south of Hainan.

HOME MAILS.

The s.s. "President Lincoln" brought 203 bags of mail this morning. An odd bag was from London via Canada, the remainder of the mail being from the U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Shanghai.

Home letters and parcels are due to arrive by the P. and O. s.s. "Kalyan" to-morrow morning.

During a police raid at Wanchai yesterday, 28 Chinese were arrested for gambling. They were all present in court this morning and fined \$2 each on pleading that they were playing for small stakes.

OUR POST OFFICE.

RECORD MAIL HANDLED IN
JULY.

STAFF DIFFICULTIES.

Canton Strike Has An Indirect Effect.

A department of the local public service which receives little publicity except when the annual report of its working is published is that concerned with the Post Office administration. Yet, needless to say, the work of sorting, delivery and transhipment and the supervision and administration proceeds daily—sometimes nightly—with demands on the time and labour of the whole department, particularly heavy at certain times.

A correspondent to-day refers rather belatedly to delay in the delivery of newspapers arriving on Saturday morning and received on Monday holding that if the department is under-staffed steps should be taken to make up the deficiency.

Week-End Rush.

A "China Mail" representative who made enquiries was informed that the delay referred to was on account of the staff having to prepare for an outward mail to Europe on the day in question as well as two inward Europe mails and other smaller mails both ways. As it was the end of the month, some 200 men had had to be paid, this also leading to a certain amount of interruption.

For normal times the present staff of the Post Office is sufficient, he was further informed, although the special difficulties faced by men who were comparatively new to the work had to be taken into consideration. A large percentage of the clerical and outdoor staff consisted of men engaged since the strike and although they were doing their best it stood to reason that they were not yet as conversant with the technicalities as men who had been engaged on the work for ten years or more (as some of the men who left during the strike had been). A great deal of extra supervision work was required.

A Record July.

Further interesting facts with regard to the amount of mail handled by the department were given to the newspaper representative. Hongkong acts as a sort of "Clapham Junction" in regard to transhipment of mail in the Orient and transhipment involves a considerable and growing demand on the time of certain of the employees owing to fewer ships going direct from Shanghai to Canton since the strike and the growing use of the postal service in regard to communications between those ports and between Shanghai and Yunnan.

This will be more fully appreciated when it is stated that during July of this year over 21,000 bags of mail were received here, this number being a record for one month within the memory of members of the staff who can go back over many years.

Considerable extra work has had to be undertaken as an indirect outcome of the Canton strike, mails which have been transhipped to boats for Canton having to be brought back in certain cases, unloaded and transferred to other boats. Although Shanghai has been cabled with regard to the impossibility of parcels to Canton being handled by the depleted staff there, a considerable number had had to be stored here which had left there prior to the notification.

Siberian Route.

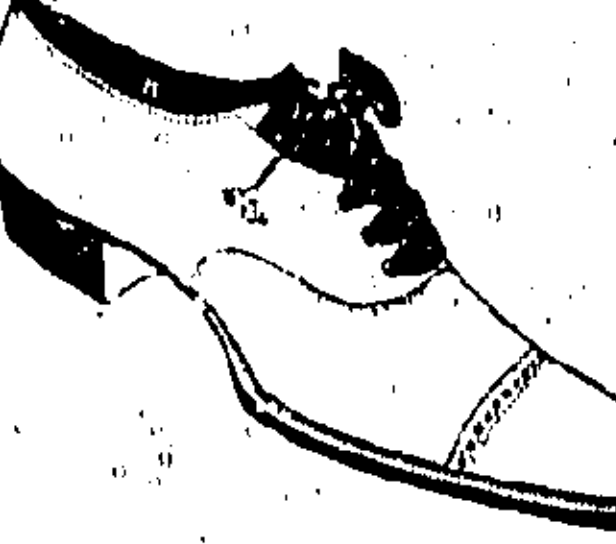
The Siberian route, it would appear from further answers to the "China Mail" representative's enquiries, is being very extensively used at the present time particularly for the despatch of newspapers and periodicals, from Europe here, although, naturally enough, the quantity despatched from here via that route is considerably less. The opening up of the Tientsin-Pechow railway enabling mail for North China and Europe via Siberia to be forwarded to Harbin by the rail route had enabled the local authorities to make more regular and reliable connections in Shanghai.

TO-DAY'S DOLLAR.

The closing rate of the dollar on demand, to-day was 2/2 5/18.

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NOTICES.

HONGKONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION.

MR. P. M. HODGSON having resigned the Honorary Secretaryship of this Association all Communications and letters in future should be addressed to the undersigned who has been appointed Honorary Secretary of the Association.

G. E. S. UPSDELL
Hon. Secretary,
c/o H.K. Telegraph,
Hongkong, 29th July, 1926.

FRANCIS GLASS, DECEASED.

PERSONS having claims against the Estate of the above named deceased late of The Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd. who died on the 31st day of July, 1926, are requested to forward the same as soon as possible to the undersigned.

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,
Princes Building,
Hongkong, 3rd August, 1926.

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HONGKONG HEIGHTS.

For the information of visitors the following list of some of the highest points on the Island and Mainland is published:—

Island.	Feet.
Victoria Peak	1823
Signal Station	1774
Mt. Parker	1734
Mountain Lodge	1725
The Eyrie	1725
Peak Hotel	1305
Taukoo Sanatorium	1000
Mt. Davis	877
Bowen Rd. (Hillside)	297
Mainland.	
Taimoshan	3124
Kowloon Peak	1971

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SUCH IS FAME.

MATINEE IDOL'S SUCCESS LOCALLY.

SEQUEL TO STRIKE.

Such is fame!

Mr. Sit Kok-seen, the famous Cantonese matinee idol, who is the first "star" to perform in Hongkong since the strike began last year, has been playing to capacity houses this week. The attendance was such that queues lined up each night at the Kau-U Fong theatre and seats were booked up several nights ahead. Many had to be turned away.

When the strike began last year, all the leading troupes returned to Canton. Subsequently shows were given by amateur companies and by smaller troupes who got through or were assembled from other sources.

Mr. Sit (better known as Mr. S. C. Harvey) has been in Shanghai for over a year, where he holds the position of managing director of the Ideal Motion Film Co. He is on a short business trip to Hongkong. Starting as an amateur actor a few years ago, he rose very quickly to the top and his career has been meteoric.

Other "stars" have come to Hongkong, but only to sail for America, where there are several Cantonese companies. The cutting out of the Hongkong and Macao theatres from the itinerary of the Cantonese troupes has meant a fairly big exodus to America and Malaya. Mr. Sit Kok-seen is the first actually to appear on a Hongkong stage since last June, except for a former colleague who appeared in charity shows here, while awaiting a steamer for Seattle.

IDLE RICH.

MUSSOLINI CLASSES THEM WITH TRAMPS.

IN ROLE OF OUTCASTS.

Rome, June 25.
Signor Mussolini has declared war on the idle rich, who are included in the same classification as beggars and tramps in the new grouping system for electoral and industrial purposes of the whole Italian nation, which will be effected by legislation expected to come into force on July 1.

Unproductive, rich, vagabonds, and tramps will be excluded under this system from the benefits of Italian citizenship.

Italians will be grouped into fifteen categories. The sections of industry, sea transport, commerce, agriculture, land transport, and banking are further subdivided into employers and employees' groups, making twelve categories in all. There are also three more groups of independent workers, neither employers nor employees, such as doctors, lawyers, artists, and engineers.

The classification of the idle rich with beggars and tramps has created much indignation. Signor Mussolini, however, has often expressed his contempt for idlers, and a law against voluntary parasitism will, no doubt, be promulgated shortly.

All non-producers are to live "on the margin of the State," that is, they will be treated as foreigners, not as Italian citizens.

SENSIBLE TYPISTS.

HAPPIER THAN 210-A-WEEK AMERICANS.

Southampton, June 25.
Mr. Roy S. Wildman, whose copper mills in America employ 35,000 men, dispelled some of the dreams about his country as the workers' utopia of high wages, when interviewed to-day before he sailed for New York.

"Shorthand-typists in America," he said, "earn from \$8 to \$10 a week, but the cost of living is proportionately high. They are no happier than their less-paid sisters in England, because in their feverish anxiety to maintain the standard of living they set themselves they are able to put only a little money in the bank."

"The craze for dress, which is the result of high wages, attains ridiculous heights. Shorthand-typists earning good money in New York and other great cities arrive at their offices dressed like revue stars. The English office girl's attire is much more sensible than that of the American girl."

Tokyo, July 28.—During a children's Red Cross inauguration ceremony at Sapporo, Hokkaido, yesterday, at which 9,000 were present, about 150 children got sun-stroke. Several, it is reported, are seriously ill.

COMMUNIST WORK.

INFLAMMATORY LEAFLET SERVED TO WORKERS.

ALL AUTHORITY EQUALLY ATTACKED.

A booklet of a highly inflammatory nature, purported to have been issued by the Chinese Communist Party in Shanghai, and attacking the Chinese and foreign authority in Shanghai as well as advocating the abolition of practically every tax in the foreign concessions and Chinese territory, was widely distributed in both the International Settlement and Chinese districts on Monday. The following is a partial translation into English from the Chinese:—

"In Shanghai there are a number of big merchants, compradors and Chinese of the leisure class who, with the aid of the imperialists and militarists, are growing richer. The remainder of the people are coolies, labourers and small traders, who suffer great poverty."

"The monthly wage of these people is from \$7 to \$12, which is barely sufficient to keep them from starving. They are also exposed to losing their employment and becoming homeless. The few who live in tile-covered houses consider that they have palaces. Thousands of others have only contrivances which are an excuse for a home."

"The small traders are always on the verge of bankruptcy. These conditions cannot exist and have become problems which we must solve."

Taxes and Militarists.
The booklet then goes on to enumerate the taxes in the Settlement and Chinese territory and then says, "this money goes to maintain the dignity of the imperialists and militarists."

"Chinese territory is continuously occupied by militarists. V. K. Ting is here under the pretence of forming a 'Greater Shanghai.' He has been sent here by Sun Chuan-fang to increase the taxes. Sun's real object is to get control of this district completely and then practise extortion as he wishes."

"Lately rice has reached an exorbitant price and now the military are trying to deceive the ignorant people by telling them that they are trying to bring the prices down."

"The Chinese and foreign authorities have now reduced us to impotency and have taken away our franchise. They have refused us freedom of speech and of the press. Journalists are no longer able to express their views. Citizens who try to assemble are driven away and assaulted and insulted."

Successful Insurrection.
"The problem is now a case of bankruptcy or death by starvation on the one hand, or successful insurrection on the other. We must convince the masses that their very lives are at stake."

"This party exists for the oppressed, to guide them, help the oppressed and save the rights already secured. Our policy is to attack those who have been fattened on the sweat of others. The imperialists, capitalists and militarists are worse than natural calamities and wild beasts. The Communists are, and shall always remain, the friends of the oppressed."

"During the past year the labourers showed strength by resisting. We must all unite now and struggle against these outrages of freedom."

The Terms We Demand.
Every citizen of Shanghai should make the following demands:—

"(1) All residents of the Settlement should be allowed to enjoy

equal privileges in participating in the Municipal Administration.

"(2) The Mixed Court should be unconditionally restored to China."

"(3) The Municipal roads should be returned to the Chinese."

"(4) Chapel and Nantao should be governed by representatives of the people."

"(5) Dwellings should be built for the poor people."

"(6) Laws should be promulgated to protect the labourers."

"(7) Freedom of speech and of the press should be granted."

"(8) The price of rice should be kept at a low price."

"(9) Opposition should be made to the residential and other taxes."

"You, the multitude of Shanghai, should unite, rise up and fight for these demands in the interests of salvation." (Signed) The Shanghai Executive Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

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COMRADE KOPP.

ARRIVED IN MOSCOW SAYS DEVELOPMENT NORMAL.

JAPANESE-SOVIET RELATIONS.

Moscow, July 24.—In an interview with the press man shortly after his arrival here from Japan, Mr. Victor Kopp, the Soviet Ambassador to Tokyo, who is home on furlough, emphasised the normal development of Japanese-Soviet relations.

In illustration, he pointed to the successful settlement of a number of different questions, specifying the Soviet-Japanese agreement on Sakhalin concessions among the successes and also predicting in the very near future the conclusion of a Fishery Convention between the two countries.

Mr. Kopp also insisted on the evidence of development of commercial relations between the Russian Republic and Japan since the installation of the Russian trade delegation at Tokyo and said he had been informed that before long there would be started parleys with representatives of the South Manchuria Railway, the Chinese Eastern Railway and with the Ussuri Railway for the regulation of railway traffic and construction in Manchuria.

A "MIRACLE-MAN."

EARTH PILL CLAIMS.

The village of Quarto Disocave, near Naples, is much excited over what they regard as the treatment of diseases by a local priest, Don Luigi Garofalo.

More than a hundred cases, ranging from tuberculosis to paralysis and from toothache to broken limbs, are stated to have been treated successfully by this priest with a special earth found near Pozzuoli (on the coast near Naples). The earth is either taken in the form of pills or applied externally to the injured part.

The priest's fame has spread rapidly throughout the province and his house has become the object of numerous pilgrimages by people suffering from all sorts of diseases.

Thousands of ailing Italians surround the house night and day acclaiming his treatment.

Recently, when the priest visited Naples, he was recognised and became the centre of such a commotion that the police had to interfere and escort him back to his village.

He explains his success by saying that, man being dust, certain carthas have curative properties. The priest has never accepted payment for his treatment.

CHOLERA IN SHANGHAI.

The Chinese community of Chapel and Nantao is seriously alarmed at the rapid spread of the cholera epidemic. In a further petition to Dr. V. K. Ting on the subject, the Chinese merchants state that so long as the working classes are allowed to use creek water for cooking and drinking, the epidemic will continue. The petition states that the workers of innumerable cotton factories and silk flatures on the Chinese side of the Soochow Creek use water direct from the creek for all domestic purposes, including drinking. The petition adds that the factory managements should be compelled to have sanitary wells dug. Dr. Ting has issued further orders in connection with the epidemic, and these, he says, must be obeyed. It is his stated intention to walk through the streets himself during the nights to see that the police obey his instructions and prevent the people from sleeping in the open. The regulations regarding the sale of unclean food must be tightened, and most important of all, corpses must be immediately buried, and not allowed to lie in the homes in accordance with ancient Chinese customs. Dr. Ting regards this particular custom as an especial evil.

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MONTEVIDEO MARU Friday 3rd September.

BOMBAY—Via Singapore and Colombo. Thursday, 5th August.

BORNEO MARU Thursday, 19th August.

CALCUTTA—Via Singapore and Rangoon. Thursday, 19th August.

SANTO MARU Wednesday, 25th August.

BANGKOK—Via Saigon. Wednesday, 25th August.

VICTORIA, SEATTLE, TACOMA & VANCOUVER—Via Shanghai and Japan.

AFRICA MARU (From Shanghai) Wednesday 18th August.

DURBAN, DELAGOA BAY, BEIRA, DAR-ES-SALAAM, ZANZIBAR & MOMBASA—Via Singapore & Colombo. Thursday, 12th August.

MEXICO MARU Thursday, 12th August.

NEW YORK—Via Japan ports, San Francisco and Panama. Thursday, 12th August.

ARGON MARU (From Keelung) End of September.

JAPAN PORTS.

SUMATRA MARU Friday, 13th August.

ALASKA MARU Thursday, 19th August.

BINGO MARU Tuesday, 24th August.

KEELUNG via SWATOW & AMOY.

KAJO MARU Sunday, 8th August Noon.

HOZAN MARU Sunday, 15th August Noon.

TAKAO via SWATOW & AMOY.

KOTSU MARU Wednesday, 11th August 10 a.m.

TAKAO and KEELUNG.

KOHOKU MARU Saturday, 14th August.

GANGES MARU Wednesday 25th August.

DAIREN via CHEFOO and TSINGTAU.

KINZAN MARU Monday, 23rd August.

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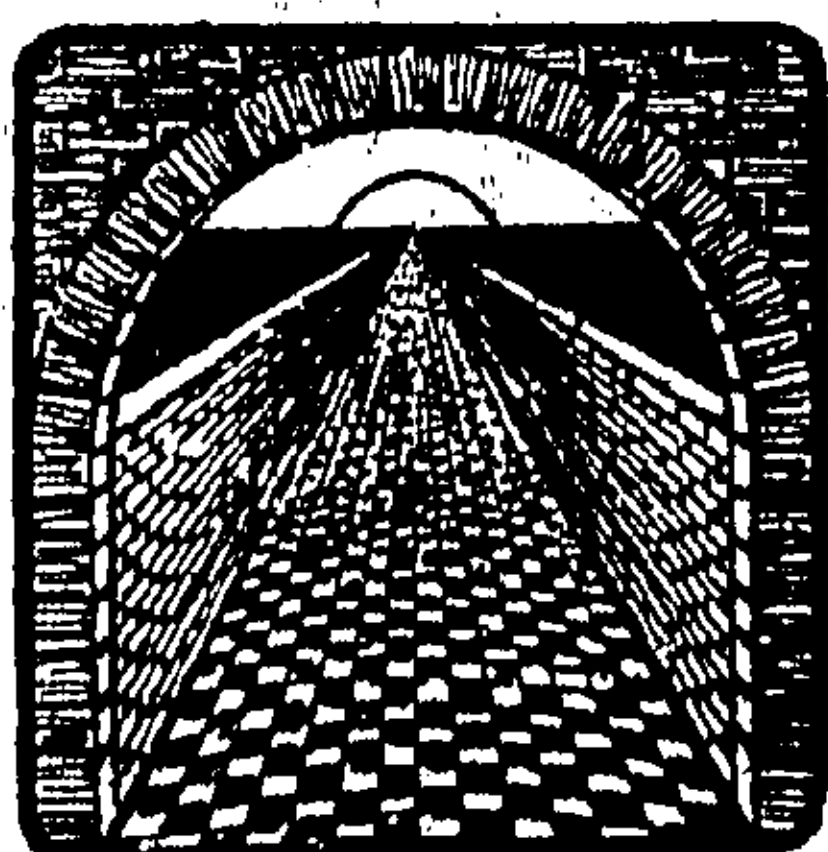
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THE KAILAN MINING ADMINISTRATION.

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SHIPBUILDING.

HERR BLOHM'S DENUNCIATION OF STATE AID.

IN GERMANY.

Berlin, June 14.
A notable speech delivered by Herr Rudolf Blohm, one of Germany's leading shipbuilders, at last week's meeting of the congress of German iron and steel industrialists at Hamburg was followed with keenest interest. After his statement to the effect that the German yards had only sufficient work to employ them to one-sixth of their output capacity, his audience awaited with some curiosity the practical suggestions to be anticipated from such a high authority for remedying the plight of the shipbuilding industry, and warmly applauded him when he, in the most explicit language, warned German industrialists against taking the line of least resistance and pinning their faith to a policy of State aid.

Bad Economics.

Gloomy as were the present prospects, said Herr Blohm, it would be the greatest mistake in the world for Germany to have recourse to a system of subsidies. He viewed with great misgivings the tendency visible in the last year or so on the part of the Government to help this or that shipbuilding yard out of a critical situation by granting it a share in the special State loan created for the use of shipbuilders. He denounced this procedure as economically unsound. It simply meant that firms that for one reason or another were unable to compete had to be kept going at the expense of the others, thus depressing the general level of output. Such a policy, instead of encouraging better economic organisation and vitalising production, had the very contrary effect, as it killed the spirit of self-reliance and initiative. Such State aid, said Herr Blohm, would, in the long run, lead to nationalisation and socialisation, and would turn business men into mere State pensioners. He advised the Government, rather than to employ the large surpluses now derived from taxation towards lessening the burden of taxation on those industries which, like shipbuilding, had to bear the brunt of international competition. Such surpluses in the Budget ought not, he said, to be arbitrarily distributed among individual firms as had recently been done.

Stifling Individuality.

Herr Blohm regarded it as a dangerous symptom that all political parties, even those of the Right, had not only participated in such a policy but had even encouraged it. If there was any industry thoroughly unsuitable for nationalisation experiments, it was shipbuilding, owing to the fact that a ship was an extremely individual product. Ships could not be turned out or sold like mass products as coal and iron, and it was for this reason that the idea mooted last year for a holding company or trust to include all Germany's shipbuilding yards was so thoroughly impracticable. Nationalisation in shipbuilding, said Herr Blohm, impressively, would inevitably lead to the decay of the art of shipbuilding, and unless German shipbuilding were carried on as an art, it might as well be given up altogether. In every industry the trust system tended towards the exclusion of the vital individual element, and of personal contact. The trust was in this respect a halfway house to nationalisation. The fact that here and there during the past year a ship had been built with State aid would, in the long run, signify no real benefit either to the shipping or shipbuilding industry. It ought to be remembered, he said, that neither shipping nor shipbuilding enjoyed any form of State protection, either in the form of Customs or any other, both industries having to stand on their own feet and fight their way against world competition on the open ocean.

No State Interference.

If Germany was to continue to have a shipbuilding industry of her own, her shipbuilding yards would have stubbornly to fight against all ill-considered attempts at State interference. Herr Blohm referred in scathing terms to the attempts of the German Government to convert the old naval dockyards at Kiel into a State undertaking for the construction of commercial vessels. The yards in question, the Deutsche Werke, were now trying to carry on with the aid of generous financial support from the State Treasury. If this system were carried to its logical conclusion, said the speaker, it would result in the German shipbuilding industry losing its international importance. The upshot would be that Germany would finally possess a number of State-owned shipbuilding yards which would be run with the help of subsidies and have merely local significance. Herr Blohm concluded by exhort-

BILLS OF LADING.

RISKY CONTINENTAL PORT CUSTOM.

"BACKLETTERS."

A new case is reported to have arisen in which a steamer in a port on the Continent took in cargo for the Pacific Coast, which case illustrates the necessity for adhering to the condition of the cargo as specified in the bill of lading instead of accepting the so-called "backletters."

In the port in question it has been the custom to issue clean bills of lading and to accept "backletters" from sound and known firms, and bank guarantees are demanded only in individual cases. The agents have therefore been accustomed to accept "backletters" without special agreement and without entering closely into the individual conditions. In the reported case, for the sake of safety, it was prescribed in the bill of lading that the ship should not be responsible for damage resulting from rust or careless handling. On the cargo being discharged it was found that a part of it was so ruined by rust and external damage that it only fetched a purely scrap price.

If the receiver's claim against the ship comes to be settled before an American court, as is quoted by Göteborgs Handels och Sjöfartstidning, it is most probable that both points of support will be worthless. The court will certainly not accept any "backletters," as in former similar cases it was considered that such can lead to the holder of the bill of lading being defrauded.

Moreover, it is probable that a single reservation that a ship is not responsible for damage for reasons of rust or external injury cannot exempt the ship from responsibility if the rust or careless handling causes damage of a more important character. The ship would therefore have to pay full compensation for the damage, and the ship can then endeavour to get a corresponding amount from the charterers with the aid of the available "backletter." Possibly the latter will then refuse to pay on account of the amount of the compensation made or because the greater part of the damage to the goods took place on board, in which case American law considers the ship responsible. In Europe some of the courts have decided that "backletters" form a kind of conspiracy between the ship and the charterer, so that the poor shipowner finds himself having to pay compensation for practically the whole consignment, and in his turn is unable to recover the amount with the support of the "backletter."

ing the shipbuilding industry to rely only on hard work and independence. Thus alone could it be rescued from the fate at present threatening it.

Shipping Handicaps.

In discussing the shipping outlook, Herr Blohm attributed most of the embarrassment now being encountered by shipowners and shipbuilders in Germany to the competition of the state-owned fleets of the United States.

The advent of the United States fleet had, he said, made the uphill fight of German shipping since the war still more difficult. In 1914 Germany, with her 5,100,000 gross registered tons, had owned 10.5 per cent. of the world's tonnage; to-day, despite her tireless efforts, she had reached only 2,000,000 tons, or about 5 per cent. of the world's present aggregate tonnage.

Herr Blohm also referred to the subsidy policy pursued by Italy, Japan, Spain, France, Poland and Great Britain.

The Case of Britain.

Great Britain, still the leading maritime country of the world, had, he alleged, given her shipping companies big mail subsidies, while, up to the end of 1925, shipbuilders had been granted £420,000,000 under the Trades Facilities Act, with the help of which they had built some 700,000 tons of new shipping. He contended that in contrast to this policy of State aid German shipowners, despite the loan of £50,000,000 recently granted by the Government, had constructed their post-war fleet independently of State aid, the compensation granted by the Government for surrendered tonnage having sufficed only to replace one-third of what had been taken from them. The new German ships were of a much smaller type than those that had been given up, and Germany consequently found it difficult to compete on the North Atlantic with the first-class ships of high speed possessed by her rivals. The rigorous quota restrictions placed on emigration by the United States and the loss of the German colonies had also adversely affected the development of the new fleet.

SHIP'S DAMAGE.

H.M.S. CAIRO COLLISION WITH S.S. CHEKIANG.

QUESTION DECIDED.

The case arising out of the collision between H.M.S. Cairo and the steamship Chekiang was before the House of Lords on June 18, when the House allowed the appeal from a decision of the Court of Appeal varying a decision of the President, whereby he affirmed the assessment of damages by the Registrar and Merchants.

The question raised by the appeal was as to the measure of damages which the Admiralty were entitled to recover in respect of the loss of the use of the Cairo and the pay and allowances of the officers and men during the period of necessary repairs.

The collision occurred on August 22, 1921, near Hankow, and damaged the stem of the Cairo. Temporary repairs were effected at Hankow, but in order to render the vessel efficient for any service she might be called upon to undertake it was essential that permanent repairs should be effected. Accordingly, the Cairo sailed from Hankow on September 2, and arrived at Hongkong on the 5th, where the damage was inspected by the Chief Constructor at His Majesty's Dockyard. It had been provisionally arranged that the Cairo should commence her annual refit on December 11, 1921, and when the damage was examined and it was seen that it would take some little time to repair, it appeared to the dockyard officers to be a suitable opportunity to effect the annual repairs at the same time, and a recommendation to that effect was made by them to the Commander-in-Chief.

The collision repairs and the refit work were commenced on September 7 and were continued to October 29. The Registrar found that if nothing but collision repairs had been effected the work could have been concluded in 20 days. Parties of the officers and crew assisted in the refit work. On April 9, 1924, the defendants (the owners of the Chekiang) admitted liability for the collision subject to a reference. The plaintiffs claimed (inter alia) (Item 2) in respect of the use of the Cairo from August 23 to September 27, 1921, 36 days, at £100 per day, this sum representing 5 per cent. interest on the capital value of the ship at the time of the collision, and (Item 3) pay and allowances of the officers and men, £7,480 17s. 4d., for the like period, these being the actual amounts expended. The Registrar allowed nothing in respect of the time from August 22 to September 2. He allowed damages for loss of time for 20 days from September 3, at £100 a day, and a sum in respect of the pay and allowances of the officers and crew for that period after making a deduction in respect of the work done by them in connection with the refit.

Order Is Varied.

The President confirmed the Registrar's report.

The Court of Appeal (Lords Justices Bankes and Atkin and Mr. Justice Lawrence) varied the order of the President by referring the report back to the Registrar for further consideration. The grounds of the decision were that the amount which the Admiralty were entitled to recover in respect of loss of the use of the Cairo or the services of her crew depended on what was the use which, but for the collision, they could have had of the ship and her crew, and of which they were deprived by reason of the collision; and whether they derived, during the period of the collision repairs, any beneficial use of the ship and her crew which ought to be taken into account in the assessment of the damages; and that the Registrar had acted on a wrong principle in allowing interest upon capital value and the cost of the crew for the period necessary for executing the collision damage repairs, and in not taking into account the fact that those repairs were done during the time when the Cairo was being refitted for the benefit of the Crown.

Their Lordships were unanimously of opinion that the Registrar was right in allowing damages as for the total deprivation of the vessel for the period of 20 days during which she was undergoing collision repairs while at the same time refit repairs were going on, and that the damages had been properly calculated.

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Empress of Asia.	Aug. 19	Aug. 22	Aug. 25	Aug. 28	Sept. 6
Empress of Canada.	Sept. 3	Sept. 5	Sept. 8	Sept. 11	Sept. 20
Empress of Russia.	Sept. 10	Sept. 12	Sept. 15	Sept. 18	Oct. 4
Empress of Asia.	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 20	Oct. 23	Nov. 1
Empress of Canada.	Oct. 29	Oct. 31	Nov. 3	Nov. 6	Nov. 15
Empress of Russia.	Nov. 11	Nov. 14	Nov. 17	Nov. 20	Nov. 29

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Sandakan	Departure	Arrival	TUESDAY	Aug. 3
Lahad Duta	Departure	Arrival	WEDNESDAY	Aug. 4
Tawau	Departure	Arrival	THURSDAY	Aug. 5
Semporna	Departure	Arrival	FRIDAY	Aug. 6
Sandakan	Departure	Arrival	FRIDAY	Aug. 6
Jesselton	Departure	Arrival	SUNDAY	Aug. 8
Hongkong	Departure	Arrival	SUNDAY	Aug. 8
Sandakan	Departure	Arrival	THURSDAY	Aug. 12
Jesselton	Departure	Arrival	FRIDAY	Aug. 13
Hongkong	Departure	Arrival	FRIDAY	Aug. 13
Sandakan	Departure	Arrival	TUESDAY	Aug. 17

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S. S.	Tons	From Hongkong About	Destination
DELTA	8,097	7th Aug.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
MACEONIA	13,089	21st Aug.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
KALYAN	9,144	4th Sept.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
NAGPORA	5,283	10th Sept.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
MALWA	10,941	18th Sept.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
KASHGAR	9,005	2nd Oct.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
MOREA	10,918	10th Oct.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
KHYBER	9,114	30th Oct.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
MANTUA	10,902	13th Nov.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
KARMAIA	9,128	27th Nov.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
MACEONIA	13,089	11th Dec.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
DELTA	8,097	25th Dec.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
MALWA	10,941	8th Jan.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
KALYAN	9,144	22nd Jan.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
MOREA	10,918	5th Feb.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp
KASHGAR	9,005	19th Feb.	Milnes, Casablanca, London & Antwerp

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BRITISH INDIA-APCAR SAILINGS.

SHIRALA	7,841	7th Aug.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta
TALMA	10,000	13th Aug.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta
TAKADA	6,949	4th Sept.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta
SANTHIA	7,754	7th Sept.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta
TILAWA	10,000	14th Sept.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta
TALMA	10,000	21st Sept.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta
SHIRALA	7,841	28th Sept.	Singapore, Penang & Calcutta

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN SAILINGS (South)

TANDA	8,056	27th Aug.	Manila, Sandakan, Thursday Island, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.
ST. ALBANS	4,500	1st Oct.	
ARAFURA	6,000	2nd Oct.	

The E. & A. S.S. Co., Ltd., steamers will also call at Shanghai, Iloilo, Cebu, Kohabugan, Tawao, Timor, Darwin, or other ports en route as inducement of cargo.

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The P. & O. Royal Mail steamers to London via Suez Canal.
The P. & O. Branch Service of steamers, to London via the Cape.
The New Zealand Shipping Company's steamers for Southampton and London via Panama Canal.

SAILINGS TO SHANGHAI & JAPAN

KALYAN	9,144	7th Aug.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
TAKADA	6,949	14th Aug.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
MALWA	10,941	18th Aug.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
TILAWA	10,000	21st Aug.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
SANTHIA	7,754	28th Aug.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
NELLORE	6,853	1st Sept.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
TALMA	10,000	3rd Sept.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
KASHGAR	9,005	7th Sept.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
ST. ALBANS	4,500	10th Sept.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
MOREA	10,918	13th Sept.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
NYANZA	7,023	20th Sept.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
KHYBER	9,114	1st Oct.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
ARAFURA	6,000	5th Oct.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
MANTUA	10,902	13th Oct.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
KARMAIA	9,128	27th Oct.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
DEVANIA	8,455	30th Oct.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
TANDA	8,056	2nd Nov.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
MACEONIA	13,089	13th Nov.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
DELTA	8,097	27th Nov.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
ST. ALBANS	4,500	7th Dec.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
MALWA	10,941	10th Dec.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
KALYAN	9,144	24th Dec.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
ARAFURA	6,000	4th Jan.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
MOREA	10,918	7th Jan.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe
KASHGAR	9,005	21st Jan.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe

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THE SUEZ CANAL.

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR:
INTERESTING FIGURES.

BRITISH WHITE PAPER ISSUED.

Speaking last year at the general meeting of the Suez Canal Company, the chairman made a very confident prediction that 1925 would be a "brilliant" year and might indeed justify a "new and important increase" of the dividend. A White Paper issued by the Foreign Office and dealing with the Canal traffic during 1925 shows that this optimism was well founded.

As a matter of fact, the amount of cargo passing through the waterway exceeded by 802,000 tons the previous record total, the figure being 26,578,000 tons, compared with 25,776,000 tons in 1913. The increase is in merchandise carried from south to north, which amounted to 17,776,000 tons, compared with 14,456,000 tons in the last pre-war year; the outward traffic (8,802,000 tons) being still more than 3,000,000 tons below the 1913 figure, coal cargoes being down by 513,000 tons, and machinery, etc., by close on 400,000 tons. Compared with 1913, the quantity of mineral oil from the East has increased by 1,369,000 tons, while wheat, soya beans, copra and gunnies have also been carried in considerably greater quantities. It is of interest to note that the higher figures for 1925 are mainly due to the larger imports of Oriental merchandise by the United States, these being almost double the 1913 figure of 895,000 tons.

Europe's Share.
So far as Europe is concerned, it appears that it has exported east of Suez 2,234,000 tons less than before the war while it has imported 2,402,000 tons more. India has proved a good customer, taking 3,656,000 tons of goods, against 3,641,000 tons in 1924, but exports to China and Japan were on a markedly lower scale. There were increases also to the Straits Settlements, East Africa and Australia. Examining the statistics relating to the tonnage passing through the Canal, we find that it was made up of 5,337 vessels of 36,909,955 tons gross, which compares with 5,122 vessels of 34,551,932 tons in 1924, while the transit receipts amounted to Frs. 193,515,145, against Frs. 186,461,000 for the previous year.

British Lead.

The British flag was, of course, enormously predominant, as the following figures show.

Flag	Number of Vessels	Gross Tonnage
British	3,099	22,065,283
Dutch	526	3,711,774
German	259	2,499,163
French	331	2,362,373
Italian	260	1,957,112
Japanese	188	1,442,626
American	132	1,086,553
Norwegian	91	498,583
Swedish	83	475,023
Denish	57	353,564
Greek	54	222,823
Spanish	22	95,389

It is satisfactory to note that the proportion of loaded vessels proceeding from north to south has risen, but the average quantity of cargo carried in each ship was rather less at 5,024 tons. For the last month of 1925, however, this figure rose to 5,756 tons, and the Canal authorities deduce from this that world trade is slowly improving.

The percentage of British vessels using the waterway was 58.1 and their gross tonnage 59.8 of the

LOCAL SHIPPING.

TO-DAY'S ARRIVALS AND
CLEARANCES.

THE MORNING LIST.

This morning, the following sea-going arrivals at Hongkong were reported:—
Anking (2047), Br., from Singapore, Amoy; B. & S.
Kweiyang (1580) Br., from Bangkok, Kohalchang, B. & S.
Campinas (1972) Fr., from Saigon, Nhatrang; Optorg.
Rosandra (4798) Ital., from Trieste, Singapore; Dodwell.
Pres. Lincoln (3359) Am., from San Francisco, Shanghai; Dollar Line.
Kasthe (906) Ger., from Dalny, Canton; Jobben.
Bornao Maru (4261) Jap., from Nagoya, Moji; O.S.K.
Aden Maru (4264) Jap., from Antwerp, Singapore, N.Y.K.
Chung Hing (249) Chi., from Kwong-chow-wan; Hong On.
Departures.
For Amoy; Haining.
For Kwong-chow-wan; Poo Sang.
For Shanghai; Nagpore, Soochow, Xion, Glenogle.
For Keelung; Genbai Maru.
For Weihaiwei; Huichow.
For Foochow; Hopang.
For Aden; Em. of Australia.
Clearances.
For Singapore; Van Cloon.

SHIPS IN PORT.

At 9 a.m. to-day the following numbers of vessels were in port:—

British	25
American	1
Panama	1
Italian	1
Japanese	5
Chinese	12
French	2
Dutch	7
Norwegian	1
German	1
Total	56

total. The return classifies the British shipping movement as consisting of 2,038 merchant vessels of 10,298,346 tons net; mail steamers, 376 of 2,790,469 tons; and merchant ship, in ballast, 435 of 1,883,750 tons; these figures being in each case in excess of those of 1924.

Britain's nearest rival was Holland, followed by Germany, France, Italy and Japan.

The P. & O. Predominance.

The average time occupied for navigating the waterway was, for all vessels, 15 hours 20 minutes. The P. & O. and B. I. and other associated companies again easily headed the list of the users of the Canal, their combined tonnage totalling 2,998,000, compared with 2,723,000 in 1924. The British Tanker Company retains second place with 2,004,000 tons, while next on the list are vessels of the Ellerman group (1,833,000 tons) followed by Messrs. Alfred Holt and Co. (1,599,000 tons). The leader among the non-British lines was the Messageries Maritimes with 970,000 tons, the Nederland S. S. Co., of Amsterdam, running the French Company very close with 941,000 tons.

In five cases passages occurred of vessels with a draught exceeding 30 feet, the maximum permitted since January 1, 1925, being 22 feet. The deeper draughted ships were the Blue Funnel line—Calchas and the Danish motor-ship Malaya, which were drawing in each case over 31 feet.

TURBINE YACHT.

EMERALD ONE OF THE
PIONEERS.

OWNED BY CHINESE NAVY.

A recent note on the steam yacht Alacrité has produced an inquiry concerning the steam yacht Lorena. As a matter of fact, she is an item of news, too, for she has just been transferred to the Chinese Navy for use as a surveying ship, while she was noteworthy as being one of the first turbine yachts to be built. In 1903, very largely on account of the stir that had been made by the turbine-driven Emerald, Mr. A. L. Barber, of New York, went to Cox and King, the well-known London yacht architects, to design him a ship which was to be built by Ramage and Ferguson, of Leith. The result of this arrangement was the Lorena, a triple-screw schooner yacht of 1,300 tons gross register, distinguished not only by her machinery, but also by the fact that she had a long promenade deck over practically the whole of her length, more after the fashion of a passenger steamer than a yacht. She was given three sets of Parsons turbines, and that being in the very early days of the system, the two outer shafts were given two propellers each. She was then the second ocean-going turbine yacht, and considerably the larger and faster of the two, although Sir Christopher Furness's Emerald will always be remembered as the pioneer. When she was tried in the Forth, she maintained an average speed of 17.9 knots, with a maximum of just over 18, while the absence of vibration was very noteworthy compared with the fast reciprocating-engined yachts of the time. She had only been in commission a year when she was temporarily transferred to London owners, but soon afterwards was bought back by Mr. Barber. In 1900 she was again sold to Mr. Albright, of New York, who, again, only kept her a year, and then sold her to Mr. G. Jay Gould, who renamed her Atalanta. When the British Government was sadly in need of fast patrol craft she was transferred to Lord Decies, his son-in-law, and placed at the disposal of the Government. Her first commander was Captain Robert F. B. Cuming, R.N.R., one of the gallant band of retired admirals who refused to recognise hard-and-fast rules as to when a man was too old to fight for his country, and who dipped their rank in order to be as useful as they could. She served as a naval auxiliary until after the Armistice, but when Mr. Jay Gould died she was put on the sale list. Unfortunately there are many people nowadays who can afford to run a 1,300-ton yacht, with the result that she hung fire for some time, until a short time ago she was purchased by the Chinese Navy and placed under the control of the Maritime Customs to act as a surveying ship. She is now on this work as the Kan Lu, and is certainly one of the finest surveying ships afloat.

The s.s. Kahte, under the German flag, arrived in port yesterday morning from Dalny via Canton in ballast, and proceeded to Taikoo Dock for repairs. It is understood that she grounded in the Canton River. Messrs. Jobben & Co. are the local agents.



SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

SAN FRANCISCO via Shanghai, Japan Ports & Honolulu.

TENYO MARU Monday, 9th August, at Noon.

KOREA MARU Tuesday, 24th August.

SOUTH AMERICA via Japan, Honolulu, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Mexico & Panama.

GINYO MARU Wednesday, 25th August.

ANYO MARU Tuesday, 12th October.

MARSEILLES, LONDON & ANTWERP via Singapore & Port.

SUWA MARU Saturday, 14th August.

PUSHIMI MARU Saturday, 28th August.

SYDNEY & MELBOURNE via Manila & Port.

MISHIMA MARU Wednesday, 18th Aug. at 11 a.m.

TANGO MARU Wednesday, 22nd August.

NEW YORK and/or BOSTON via PANAMA.

CALCUTTA MARU Saturday, 7th August.

HAKODATE MARU Friday, 20th August.

BUENOS AIRES via Singapore, Durban & Cape Town.

HAKATA MARU Thursday, 5th August.

KAMAKURA MARU Saturday, 21st August.

BOMBAY via SINGAPORE & COLOMBO.

AWA MARU Wednesday, 11th August.

NAGANO MARU Monday, 30th August.

CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON.

MURORAN MARU Friday, 20th August.

NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA.

TANGO MARU Saturday, 21st August.

SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA.

HAKUSAN MARU Monday, 9th August.

PENANG MARU Thursday, 12th August.

TOYOOKA MARU Monday, 16th August.

KITANO MARU Tuesday, 24th August.

For further information apply to—NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

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S.S. "CALULU" Sailing on or about 7th August.

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A Charge of \$20 For
30 MEALS.

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The proprietor of the BOMBAY SILK STORE begs to notify the General Public that they have opened a new and up-to-date silk establishment at No. 2, D'Aguiar Street where all the latest varieties in silk piece-goods and ready-made silk articles are being displayed.

Having been in this business for the last twenty years in the Colony, they possess thorough knowledge and experience of the requirements of the customers and a glance through some of the varied and attractive selections of goods would convince the prospective buyers as to the exclusive class of silks they offer to them.

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HASSARAN GIANCHAND, Proprietor.

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in advance. Local delivery free.)

Overland China Mail

(The weekly edition of the "China
Mail." Annual subscription, H.K.
\$18 including postage \$15, payable
in advance.)

Published by

The Newspaper Enterprise, Ltd.

Printers & Publishers

No. 5, WYNDHAM ST., HONGKONG

Telephone Central 22 & 4641.

Cable Address: Mail, Hongkong.

All communications should be

addressed to the Newspaper Enterprise, Ltd., to whom all remittances should be made payable.

London Offices:—The Far Eastern
Advertising Agency (London),
Ltd., 86-88, Southampton Street,
Strand, W.C.2.

Hongkong, Thursday, August 5, 1926.

THOSE RENTS—AGAIN.

There is apparently no prospect of getting away from the question of rents. It is going beyond the stage of the grievance of the habitual "letter-to-the-Editor" writer. It has jumped almost at a bound into a critical problem which the Government cannot evade or shirk any longer. If it seeks refuge in silence it simply must be held responsible for any bad blood engendered between landlords and tenants on the one hand and between the Government and the tenants on the other.

Another scathing exposure of the ways of landlords is contained in our correspondence columns to-day. But it is novel inasmuch as it is not an ordinary tenant with a family to support who is the alleged victim of the property owner, but the Government itself.

There is in Kowloon a public dispensary that renders most valuable service to hundreds free of charge. Small as the premises are the landlord has seen fit to treble the rent within a comparatively short period, and, rather than pay, our correspondent contends that the Government should close the dispensary, holding that the public must forgo a boon if it does not have enough spirit to "kick." That is a quaint way of putting the case, although it is tempered by our correspondent stating that he has no sympathy with the Government, as no response has been made to the many suggestions for the creation of a Fair Rents Board.

In the case of private tenants the Government itself has not had the semblance of a "kick" to show its resentment of exorbitant increases in rents. As protector of the oppressed and the steward of the public it has not simply existed so far as rents are concerned. It has merely effaced itself, and placed an "out" ticket on its front door. There is no need for anyone to call there to air any grievance on the rents question. The Government is not concerned. It is "out," and it intends to remain "out."

This, of course, is a senseless attitude to pursue. The Government must be aware of the facts. It must know just as much as the

Press does of the appalling increases of rents since the withdrawal of the Rents Ordinance. It has seen the various suggestions for the creation of a Fair Rents Board. What is to be gained by hiding its head in the sand and pretending to be blind to all that is going on? Why in these questions of public moment does it go out of its way to alienate public opinion and to encourage the growth of a battalion of malcontents, out of what were formerly lawful and peace-abiding citizens?

The Government may have its own views on the feasibility or otherwise of a Fair Rents Court. In practice such a Court may not pan out exactly as many people seem to think. On the other hand, it may be the most ideal form of rent control that could be devised under existing local circumstances. But what does the Government really think about it? Why is it so halting and timid?

Who is it afraid to offend by coming out into the open and leading instead of being given a lead? It is high time for all this mystery to be ended before public opinion on exorbitant rents becomes more acute and perhaps gets out of hand.

ART BALLET.

MURA SHIPOFF COMPANY
TO-NIGHT.

LOCAL TALENT ALSO.

Local talent is assisting at the special performance of dancing and music at 9.15 to-night, at the Seamen's Institute (under the patronage of the Rev. G. D. Waldegrave), by the Mura Shipoff Art Ballet Company, the popular favourites.

The Misses Andrews are also appearing. They are the two daughters of Mr. S. Andrews of the Naval Dockyard and have kindly consented to assist Miss Mura Shipoff (the baby Pavlova). They will play for all of her dances and will give special selections on the piano.

The programme will be:—

1. Overture, Misses Andrews and Mr. Villanor, Trio-Orchestra.
2. Dance of Love, ex ballet, "Coppelia," Music by Leo Delibes, Mr. Koka Shipoff, Miss Mura Shipoff.
3. Fascination Dance, Music by A. Lehár, Mr. Koka Shipoff.
4. Cello solo, New selections, Mr. George Surmi.
5. Old Russian National Dance, Miss Shumskaya and Mr. Shipoff.
6. The Dying Swan, Music by Saint-Saens (by special request), Miss Mura Shipoff.
7. Cello solo, Mr. George Surmi.
8. The Fisherman and the Pearl, Music by C. Bohm, Miss Mura and Mr. Koka Shipoff.
9. Valse Fantasia, music by A. Lehár, Miss Mura and Mr. Koka Shipoff.

10 Minutes Interval.

10. Interlude, Misses Andrews and Mr. Villanor, Trio-Orchestra.
11. Barcarole, music by P. Tchaikovsky, Miss Mura and Mr. Koka Shipoff.
12. Nocturne, music by F. Chopin, Miss Mura and Mr. Koka Shipoff.
13. Cello solo, Mr. George Surmi.
14. Ukrainian Dance, Miss Shumskaya and Mr. Shipoff.
15. (Special) Matlot—the Sailors Hornpipe Dance, Miss Mura Shipoff.
16. Musical Selections, Misses Andrews and Mr. Villanor.
17. Scenes of Spanish life and Spanish Dances, all four members of the company.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

(To the Editor of the "China Mail.")

Sir,—With no intention of belittling the work of the postal employees, considering that the majority of them are new men since the strike, I write to ask whether the Government is attempting to economise too much in a department which vitally affects the public interests and which has actually provided regular yearly revenue of something like four lakhs.

On Saturday there was a mail in by the "President Jackson" early on Saturday morning yet certain papers which it was important that I should have at the earliest possible moment were not delivered until Monday. I am no slave-driver and I am not desirous of adding to the hours of postal employees which I know are in certain cases already excessive. But is it not a fact either that the department is under-staffed or that inducements held out to postmen are not sufficient to attract the type of men who can give quick and reliable service?

It is nice to make a profit if such has been arrived at on a sound working basis, but it is surely foolish even in times when economy is of necessity dictated by the powers that be, to "spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar."

And while on the question of the postal administration, I should like to ask what has happened to the post of Assistant Postmaster General which has, I believe, not been filled since 1917. Included in his duties was the editing of a yearly Post Office Guide which was a useful source of information and which should be an essential feature of every postal service. The last copy appeared, I believe, in 1922.

Yours, etc.,

"ENQUIRER."
Hongkong, August 4.

ILLEGAL TRAFFIC.

(To the Editor of the "China Mail.")

Sir,—It is a well known fact, since there have been cases in the Police Court, that drivers of private motor cars have been using them for public hire. It is also a well-known fact to the Traffic Department too. But it seems that so far the C.S.P. has not taken steps to check this practice. I have been pestered very much lately, in the central district, even in the daytime, by groups of "mediums" requesting me to take a car and one after another quoting rates.

This practice was adopted within recent years at West Point, to meet the guests leaving the restaurants after midnight, when the trams had ceased to run. After there have been serious, if not fatal, accidents occurring and in many instances the driver decamped.

It was only the other evening when a serious accident was met with in Des Voeux Road Central, resulting in the fatal being sent to hospital in a critical condition and the driver disappeared.

I understand that apart from these private cars being used for public hire, there is a syndicate formed which is running all types of old cars and some of the drivers are not licensed. That is where the difficulty arises, in not being able to detect them after a "smash-up." It is easy enough for the Police to publish in the Chinese Press a notice strictly prohibiting the practice and warning offenders that they will be severely dealt with without the option of a fine.

Ignorant people on being offered a cheap rate take the advantage without seeing the illegality of the practice and that they might be involved in a serious mishap. It is up to the Police to see the end of this nuisance or we'll be hearing of further casualties.

Yours, etc.,

"SAFETY."

Hongkong, August 5.

KWANGTUNG RIVERS.

Waterlevels (In English Feet)

at 8 a.m.

Aug. 1 Aug. 2

West River at Shuihung ... +28.0 +27.8

North River at Tsingyuen ... +7.5 —

North River at Samshui ... +17.24 +17.0

East River at Sheklung ... +7.6 +6.1

A FAIR CHARGE?

(Continued from page 1.)

R.I.B.A. Scale.

Mr. Macnamara commented that the fees charged were in accordance with the scale laid down by the Royal Institute of British Architects. His client could hardly put this forward as binding but it gave his Lordship an inkling as to what a reasonable charge was.

Mr. Colbourne Little was called by plaintiffs with regard to what were reasonable charges for the work in question. Witness, who has been a Fellow of the R.I.B.A. since 1907 and engaged in professional and architectural work in the Colony for 20 years, was asked what would be the probable cost of a house of the type indicated in the plan in question.

Witness replied that it depended on the locality but that it could hardly be put up under \$50,000. Asked whether it would be possible to erect it for \$30,000 witness replied that it would be impossible.

A "Reasonable Charge."

Asked what was his opinion with regard to the 1½ per cent charge for architect's fees for abandoned work, witness said that it was in his opinion a reasonable, proper and usual one. It was a quarter of the usual scale of charges for work which was actually put in hand.

Mr. Watson: And how do you arrive at the approximate cost of the house?

Witness replied that the number of rooms had to be taken into consideration.

\$50,000 The Lowest.

Asked whether the foundations entered very largely into the question, witness said that he had assumed a normal charge for such work in his approximation. His approximation of \$50,000 was about the lowest at which such a house could be put up in any locality. As much as two lakhs could be spent on its erection.

Witness was further asked if the plan submitted could in fact be called a sketch design. His reply was that a sketch design should, strictly, contain the height of rooms, a section through the building and a sketch showing the type of elevation. But so long as it was sufficient for the architect himself to arrive at these figures then it was a sketch design.

In answer to another question witness said that the sketch design need not necessarily show the depth of foundation. Conditions varied slightly in a place like Hongkong. The position of the site might not be decided when a sketch plan was produced here.

Mr. Watson commented that the R.I.B.A. provided for approximate cost by "cubic measurement or otherwise." Witness could not put on the plan which had been submitted by Mr. Bourne, approximate the cubic contents.

Witness replied that he could and he had no doubt but that the architect when he prepared the plan could also approximate it.

"Unfair" Question.

Mr. Watson put it to witness that \$900 was much too much to charge for preparing plan of this nature and asked witness if he would have charged \$900 for similar work. Witness replied that that was an unfair question.

Witness added that he thought the charge reasonable in view of the fact that considerable time must have been spent in thinking it out.

Mr. Watson: But the plan could be drawn in half an hour.

Witness replied that the drawing was nothing.

Asked if he thought the plaintiff's claim to have spent a week on its preparation (as regarded thinking it out) was reasonable witness replied that it was quite probable that the plan had occupied a week of an architect's working time.

After hearing evidence called on behalf of both parties, His Honour reserved judgment.

FRIENDLY "TIP."

LEADS TO A HAUL OF DYNAMITE.

SERGEANT'S RAID.

Charged with unlawful possession of dynamite, three Chinese appeared this morning before Mr. J. H. B. Nhill at the Kowloon Magistracy.

Sergeant Goldsmith of the Water Police, who arrested all the defendants, said that he received a "tip" from a friend of his working in a launch, that the fishing junk occupied by the defendants had dynamite on board. He ruled the junk at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon at North Point and found on board 386 sticks of dynamite, 400 capsules and 4 fuses.

Each defendant was fined \$100.

CHASE IN DARK.

ROGUE BREAKS ARM IN NULLAH.

MAGISTRATE'S PITY.

"I have no hesitation in convicting you as a rogue and vagabond, but as I think you have already suffered enough, you are ordered to be bound over in the sum of \$50 for six months."

Such was the sentence passed by Mr. J. H. B. Nhill, at the Kowloon Magistracy this morning when convicting an earth gooley charged with being a rogue and vagabond.

It was alleged that the defendant on the night of June 22 tried to steal several boards at the Shek-li-pai waterworks. The night watchman employed by Messrs. Trollope and Colls, Ltd., (who are building the reservoir), saw the defendant, and tried to approach him. The accused, on seeing the watchman, ran as fast as he could. Not being able to see his way well, in the dark he fell in a nullah of about six feet and broke his left arm. Early next morning he was turned over to the police, who brought him to the Government Civil Hospital where he was treated for five weeks.

The defendant said that he did not try to steal anything but that he lost his way through the dark. Asked by His Worship how he broke his arm, he replied saying that the watchman and another man hit him with a bamboo pole on the arm.

The defendant was to have been charged with larceny at the outset, but because of insufficient evidence, he was charged as stated.

WHOSE CAT?

POLICE SEARCHING FOR OWNER.

FINDER IN CUSTODY.

A healthy looking cat with a brass collar round the neck in the possession of a Chinese having the appearance of a coolie appeared to the police to be one of those cases calling for investigation.

Explanations being unsatisfactory, the man was charged before Major C. Willson at the Central Magistracy this morning with unlawful possession of the animal.

Defendant maintained that he searched for the cat on behalf of a cargo boat owner, who, before he sailed away on a voyage, had asked him to find the animal.

A remand was made to enable the police to make further inquiries and if possible trace the owner.

"STOLEN LEAD."

NAVAL YARD WORKER JAILED.

TWO LARCENIES.

A workman at the Naval Yard attempted to get away with a quantity of lead cable hidden among his clothing during the meal interval yesterday, but was caught by the constable at the main gate.

When charged with the theft of the cable and two pieces of floor cloth at the Central Magistracy this morning, the man pleaded guilty.

Defendant, who had two years' service to his credit, was sent to prison with hard labour for one month.

Looking for Medicine.

Three weeks' imprisonment was the sentence on another Chinese who went looking for medicinal herbs in the Botanical Gardens.

Defendant was arrested while removing plants from a flower pot.

RECKLESS CYCLIST.

COLLISION WITH TWO RICSHAS.

PULLER IN HOSPITAL.

Mr. Ho Kom-tong gave evidence against a Chinese youth who was charged at the Central Magistracy this morning with riding a push cycle in a reckless manner.

Witness said that he was travelling in a ricksha along Des Voeux Road Central, when the cyclist bumped into his vehicle and continued to zig-zag until he struck another ricksha. Although witness was not aware of it at the time, the woman travelling in it happened to be his amah, who was thrown on the roadway and received various injuries.

The ricksha puller being also stated to be in hospital with injuries, the case was remanded until Monday.

Doctor.—Your Master is decidedly better, Thomson, but very irritable. He must not be thwarted.

Butler.—"He expressed a desire to bring my neck, sir."

Doctor.—"Well—er—humour him."

RUPEE FIXED.

MIXED RECEPTION IN INDIA.

SOME DISAPPOINTMENT.

Bombay, August 4. The Currency Commission report stabilising the rupee at 1s. 6d. gold adversely affected the Bombay Stock Exchange, particularly Imperial Bank (fully paid shares), which dropped 90 rupees but subsequently recovered slightly.

The report has had a mixed reception by the Press. The Nationalist Bombay Chronicle denounces it as "defrauding India."

On the other hand the Times of India says that the report is excellent, but the report's proposal to create a Reserve Bank in India is criticised.

In Calcutta the European mercantile community welcomes the stabilisation of the rupee at 1s. 6d. On the other hand the leading Indian business men, interviewed by Reuters, consider this to be the most disappointing feature of the report.—Reuters.

PRINCE'S TOURS.

PRACTICAL INSTANCES OF SCIENCE.

London, August 4. The Prince of Wales, in his Presidential address to the British Association at Oxford, dealt almost exclusively with the development and the relationship of science to the State. While the State assumed greater activity and interest in scientific research, that did not excuse a lesser interest on the part of societies and individuals. Although he did not claim insight into pure science, he had travelled about the world and had seen practical instances of science applied to the needs of civilisation, which could only progress along a road the foundations of which had been laid by scientific thought. Research, he came to realise, was the solution of practically all the domestic and social difficulties to be found. The position foregrounded by the Prince Consort in 1859, in his Presidential address to the British Association, had now been attained when, by the gradual diffusion of science, the public generally and the legislature of the State recognised that science was the principal part of our national education and one of the country's elements of strength and prosperity.

The Prince detailed the historical sequence of events, which had strengthened the interaction between science and the State, commencing with the establishment of a national physical laboratory. Mentioning insulin, he said there was no plainer duty for the State than the promotion and search of such knowledge.

His Royal Highness emphasised cancer research, which the State was directly supporting. Mutual distrust between science and the State was, therefore, now practically removed. He urged personal contact between scientists and an Empire-wide introduction in the curriculum of schools; also facilities for the training of youth for Overseas life.

In conclusion, the Prince appealed for public support for scientific research.—Reuters.

MUTINY IN PRISON.

CONVICTS FORCED TO SURFACE BY HUNGER.

Lansing, Kansas, July 11. The 175 miner convicts from the Kansas State Penitentiary, who mutinied on Friday while at work on the 730 foot level below the surface, capitulated to-day and came to the surface without gaining their demands. Governor Paulen refused to intervene and left to W. H. Mackay, warden of the penitentiary, the policy to be pursued in starving out the prisoners.

In order to prevent the sixteen officers and guards who were in the mine from sending for help the convicts blocked the shaft cage. Prison officials expressed no uneasiness for the safety of the guards when they found the exit had been blocked. They said the mutineers would end their resistance when they became hungry. Warden Mackay refused to arbitrate with the convicts who demanded the release of four prisoners from solitary confinement as a result of a riot on Thursday. They also demanded "three square meals a day." The warden also refused to give assurances to the convicts that he would not punish the mutineers.

Tom: "Whit's wrang, wi yer held, Sandy?"
Sandy: "I got it bobbed last night."
Tom: "Whit way?"
Sandy: "Just for fa' in' on the stair. The wife bobbed it on the wa'."

EGYPT'S COTTON.

PROPOSAL TO LIMIT AREA OF CULTIVATION.

BOLL WEEVIL RAVAGES.

Cairo, August 4. The Ministry of Agriculture, in a communique, states that the area devoted to the growing of Sakellari's cotton is nine per cent. less than last year. The expansion of flower is inferior in most provinces in Lower Egypt to that of last year. The ravages of the Boll Weevil are more extensive and more shrubs have withered.

The inspectors have unanimously decided that it is necessary to promulgate a law limiting the area for the cultivation of cotton to one-third of the present area.—Reuters.

POLICE DISGUISED.

22 DESPERADOES ARRESTED IN CLEVER COUP.

BANDIT GANG CAPTURED.

Disguised as firemen but hiding bulletproof vests and automatic pistols under their firemen's attire, a party of Shanghai Municipal Police from Louza Station under Detective-Inspector Conduit on July 26 pulled off one of the cleverest coups recorded in local police history.

Distracting attention in this way and also by means of a fake fire, the police raided a house in Chaofong Road and captured 22 notorious bandits wanted for numerous crimes committed chiefly in Chinese territory, and not a single shot was fired. Other raids carried out in connection with this one resulted in the arrest of 22 members of the gang—of Zaoshing origin—and the release of a boy who was kidnapped at Hangchow and held for ransom by the gang in Shanghai.

Terrorised For Months.

For months this gang has terrorised Shanghai, and although the police by consistent work arrested most of the members, sufficient escaped arrest to maintain the gang's reputation. Following up information, the Municipal Police aided by Chapel detectives raided a house in Chaofong Road and arrested two women. Later in the day, another Chinese, visiting the house, was arrested.

This man furnished information which led to an unsuccessful raid on a house in Bubbling Well, and then to the raid in Chaofong Road, wherein the resources of the Municipal Fire Department were recruited.

Preliminary reconnoitering showed that the house next to the bandit lair was empty. With the landlord's consent, a clever plot was carried out. A bogus fire was staged in the yard, city rags soaked in naphthalene being set on fire. Other arrangements for fighting the supposed fire were also undertaken by the police and as soon as the alarm was given an old pump manned by a dozen foreign and Chinese detectives dressed as firemen rushed up to the house. Sure enough, dense volumes of smoke arose from the burning rags, and among the first people to turn out to extinguish the fire were some of the bandit gang, including the leader, who rushed out with a bucket of water.

With cinema-like realism and a certain amount of professional skill, the pseudo-firemen got out the hose and jets and tackled the fire, at the same time taking the bandits by surprise. According to plan, the house was surrounded and the disguised detectives, who penetrated the bandits' lair, suddenly threw down the hose and produced pistols.

Effect Miraculous. The landit gang were taken so completely by surprise that they had no time to resist. Pursuing the advantage, the detectives searched the house and arrested 13 men and women, as well as releasing the captured Hangchow boy. Not a shot was fired, although the detectives were ready for any emergency. The leader of the gang was most abashed of all. The only thing he could do was to protest feebly that he didn't cause the fire.

Other raids brought the total of prisoners to 22, and they will be taken before the Mixed Court and, in all probability, handed over to the Chinese authorities for most of their crimes were committed outside the Settlement.

A search of the house did not reveal a single pistol, neither were any guns found on the arrested men.

London, July 27.—At Nottingham, Professor Rene Cruchet of the Faculty of Physics of Bordeaux at the invitation of the British Medical Association Congress gave an account of his researches about blood transfusion from animal to man. In this connection Sir Humphry Rolleston paid homage to French medical science.

CHENG TU AFFAIRS.

ATTACKS ON WOMEN BY MARAUDERS.

WRONG MAN STOOD TRIAL.

Chengtu, Sze, July 10. Although the murderer of Mrs. W. E. Sibley was almost undoubtedly insane, that is such an easy plea that almost any and every excess can be assigned to insanity. For instance, the day following that tragedy one of the young ladies of another Mission was riding in a ricksha and was suddenly grasped by the throat by a student and dragged out of the vehicle. By the help of a servant and the ricksha man she was released from his grip and she jumped into her ricksha. But again he set upon her, grasped her tightly by the throat and again pulled her out. She was with great difficulty released with torn clothes and the signs of marks and bleeding on her neck.

Evidently the fellow meant serious business and regretted that he had no weapon with him with which to kill. He was arrested and after inquiries by the Consul a date was fixed for trial, but this was postponed. When it was held three Consuls were present as well as other foreigners. The trial is described as a complete farce. No attempt was made to get at the facts. Moreover, it seems almost certain that the perpetrator of the deed has been released and another victim, a confirmed opium sot who could not live long, was substituted for the original. This individual was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, but he is not likely to live so long under the conditions of the "modern" prison as seen in this part of China.

Mission School Girl Killed.

Another recent incident was the attacking of a young Chinese girl in the street in broad daylight. It is said that she was mistaken for a Mission school student, but this is uncertain. Nevertheless she was attacked and is said to have died subsequently. This is just in line with all too frequent murders of Chinese in this city, together with kidnapping of children.

Recently a tenant on the Union University property was very seriously beaten by soldiers because he had given some evidence concerning treatment by other soldiers. Instances might be multiplied indefinitely of the justice (?) meted out to the Chinese, most of whom are defenceless.

Bad Feeling Between Generals.

There is no love lost between the two great chiefs who at present occupy this city and control this section of the province. Recently one of them admitted to his army a large group of robbers and attempted to bring them into the city. The other great chief decided that since he holds the position of "robber-cleaning chieftain" he should deal with these robbers. Accordingly, as they were about to enter the north gate of the city to occupy one of the camps, he seized a number of their leaders who were subsequently hastened out of the city according to prevailing fashion. The rest of the bunch, who had not yet arrived at the gate, took to their heels and escaped. This action has increased the bad feeling prevailing between the two chiefs.

One result is the persistent announcement that there is in preparation a new political line-up in the province which will likely soon eventuate in a new group sitting in the seats of the mighty in this city. Such are the kaleidoscopic combinations—and permutations—of the political wheel in the enigmatic and distressed country. What next? is a legitimate question always on the lips of folk. The issues are certainly confused, so confused that they cannot be intelligently followed. So it is impossible to state what changes may occur in this section of China during the coming few months.

Uncertain Factors.

The forces of darkness are abroad, and it is impossible to forecast what may happen next. Quite apart from the disturbing and confusing conditions, there are other uncertain factors entering into the general situation which cause a great deal of uncertainty and even anxiety on the part of both Chinese and foreigners. I refer chiefly to the persistent reports of the activities of certain secret societies whose existence and plottings are causing the powers that temporarily be considerable disquietude.

This is illustrated in the disinclination of these authorities to consent that foreigners should go to the summer resorts for their usual recreation and recuperation. The Consuls have had rather anxious times trying to decide whether consent should be given. Anonymous letters have been sent to some of them threatening dire results to venturesome foreigners. Whether to take these and other indications at face value is the question.

RISE IN FRANC.

GOVERNMENT INSPIRES CONFIDENCE.

Paris, August 4.

The newspapers here are delighted at the rise of the franc, which they attribute to the confidence inspired by the Government, to national union and the prestige of Premier Poincare.

The "Echo de Paris" remarks that there is no longer the question of foreign credits, and believes that the price of bread will be shortly reduced.

The "Manchester Guardian's" Paris correspondent says the recovery of the franc is due to the increase of the Bank of France's rate of discount, which has suddenly restricted credit and compelled traders and manufacturers to renege the practice of assuring working capital against loss, by retaining pounds or dollars or holding increasing stocks and goods.—Reuters.

Rates in London.

London, August 4. French francs closed at 167 and Belgian at 170½.—Reuters.

Details of Bill.

Paris, August 4. The Bill for stabilising the franc, which has been issued, exempts the Banque de France from the law forbidding the purchase of national currencies at a premium. The Banque is entitled to issue notes which are not included in the legal limit in respect of gold coinage and foreign currencies which it purchases on the market. The Government maintains that sterling and dollars can thus be bought from a sort of accretion to the gold reserve. Thus the note issue will not be inflation.

The Chamber's Finance Committee, after hearing M. Poincare's exposition of the Government's proposals for the creation of a Sinking Fund and the management of National Defence Bonds, adopted them by 16 votes to 7.—Reuters.

SUMMER RECESS.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ADJOURNS.

London, August 4. The House of Commons has adjourned to November 9.—Reuters.

Union University.

Quite recently the Commencement Exercises of the West China Union University were held on the spacious grounds of that institution. The past year has been a very successful and a very happy one for the university. While other Missionary colleges and other institutions in other parts of China have had unhappy experiences the past was one of the most successful in the history of the W.C.U.U. Very happy relations between students and staff have obtained throughout the entire year. The students have been loyal, and that is saying a great deal during these troublous times in China.

Students registered very freely last September and have remained with the university all the year without any indication of ill-will and without causing any unpleasantness of any kind. There were not even as many unusual cases of discipline as formerly. A larger number of students received either diplomas or degrees in the various grades and faculties than in any previous year.

Another interesting and gratifying fact is that the many students who have attended this institution and have gone out to teach, preach or heal, or otherwise engage in the affairs of life, are for the most part making good, and are demonstrating loyalty to the university and to the foreigners who have had a share in their education. These students have not yet been infected with the spirit prevailing in some of the other educational institutions in the city.

Use Mission Hospitals.

The Mission hospitals have for the greater part of the past year been full or nearly so most of the time and the patients come as freely and as trustingly as ever. Indeed these hospitals are almost certain to break all previous statistical records by a big margin. This seems to indicate that the demonstration of ill-feeling towards foreigners is not very widespread, but is confined to a relatively few victims of some sinister agitation.

Certainly the right-thinking people of this city in great numbers have expressed their deep chagrin and shame over the unfortunate murder of Mrs. Sibley. Quite a number of better class Chinese friends who are not at all related to any Christian church were brave enough and kind enough to come to foreign compounds on the occasion of the murder to express their profound regrets and sympathy. It is such manifestations as these that enable foreigners to live and to work happily in these far interior parts of China.—"N.C. Daily News."

SANITATION.

PLAGUE OUTBREAK CAUSES GREAT ALARM.

Tokyo, July 15.

The discovery of cases of plague in Yokohama and Osaka and of suspected cases in the suburbs of Tokyo has caused alarm amongst the general public.

The press is devoting a good proportion of its space to arousing citizens to the necessity of proper sanitation and to awakening them from their laissez faire attitude. Japan is yet unfortunately afflicted with contagious diseases that could be easily eradicated, provided proper sanitation measures are resorted to.

While the nation has made giant strides in many directions, sanitation, however, has been woefully neglected. Open sewers, into which are dumped indiscriminately all manner of refuse, from street sweepings to night-soil carts, form a festering sore in Japan's principal cities. The outer moat of Tokyo is really a veritable cess-pool, especially when the heat of the summer causes the stagnant vegetation and other offal in it to fester and rot. The disgusting smells of decomposing off-scourings that assail one's nostrils tell a dangerous tale of potential epidemics, but the olfactory nerves of the Japanese, or their sense of civic pride, seem to be terribly at fault. No one policeman will lazily watch, from the shelter of his police-box, a coolie dragging a cart full of dross and dump it into a disused well, the moat (which is most preferred) or any large-sized drain.

It is only when a major epidemic threatens that there is a certain amount of essays written and orations delivered on the supreme necessity of sanitation in crowded cities. In Yokohama, now that the hot weather is definitely on, one can discern a distinct odour generally to be found in graveyards where the dead have not been interred deep enough.

Cities Badly Built.

The cities of Japan are nearly defenceless against infectious diseases, and organised bodies, such as the Health Department, seem to be doubtful as to their ability to eradicate these diseases. One great drawback is that cities here are badly built. They really were never conceived with any definite scheme in view, but like Topsy in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" "just grew." According to investigations just made by the Home Office, there are no less than fourteen slum districts in the six principal cities of Japan. The population of these slum districts is estimated at about 100,000, and these districts house nearly every variety of contagious disease.

Commenting on the disgraceful lack of sanitation in Japan, the "Osaka Asahi," a paper with a circulation that embraces nearly a million readers, declares editorially:

"The sanitary 'organisation' in cities of Japan is lamentably backward. Our cities are glaringly backward in sanitary measures to prevent disease. The drainage system is imperfect and citizens suffer from difficulties in the disposition of filth. Some of our countrymen are not better than the natives of the South-Sea islands in this respect. The existence of unwholesome districts and dirty houses huddled together is a shame to the country, and it thinks, as left as they are, the national health will deteriorate. Citizens are in terror every time the hot weather comes around. Such a defect in their life should be radically uprooted."—"N.C. Daily News."

Shadows Before.

COMING EVENTS ANNOUNCED IN THE "MAIL."

Entertainments.

August 5—Queen's Theatre; Norma Shearer and Conrad Nagel in "Excuse Me."

August 5—Star Theatre; "The Empty Cradle" and "Trumpet Island."

August 5—World Theatre; Lillian Gish in "The White Sister."

August 5—Second demonstration of Occult Science by Prof. M. Langner M.L.L.C. at the Theatre Royal City Hall, 5.33 p.m. postponed on account of Professor's illness.

August 5—Miss Mura Shipoff & her talented company will give a show at the Seamen's Institute, 9.15 p.m.

August 6—Promenade Concert on the Voltaire Parade Ground, 9.15 p.m.

Auction.

August 7—Lammert Bros. will sell the Steam Launch "Chinese Prince" at their Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, noon.

Meetings.

August 6—Meeting of general committee of the Hongkong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, in the Chamber's premises, 65, Connaught Road Central, 2.30 p.m.

10—Fifth ordinary meeting of Hongkong Amusements Ltd., at Queen's Theatre, noon.



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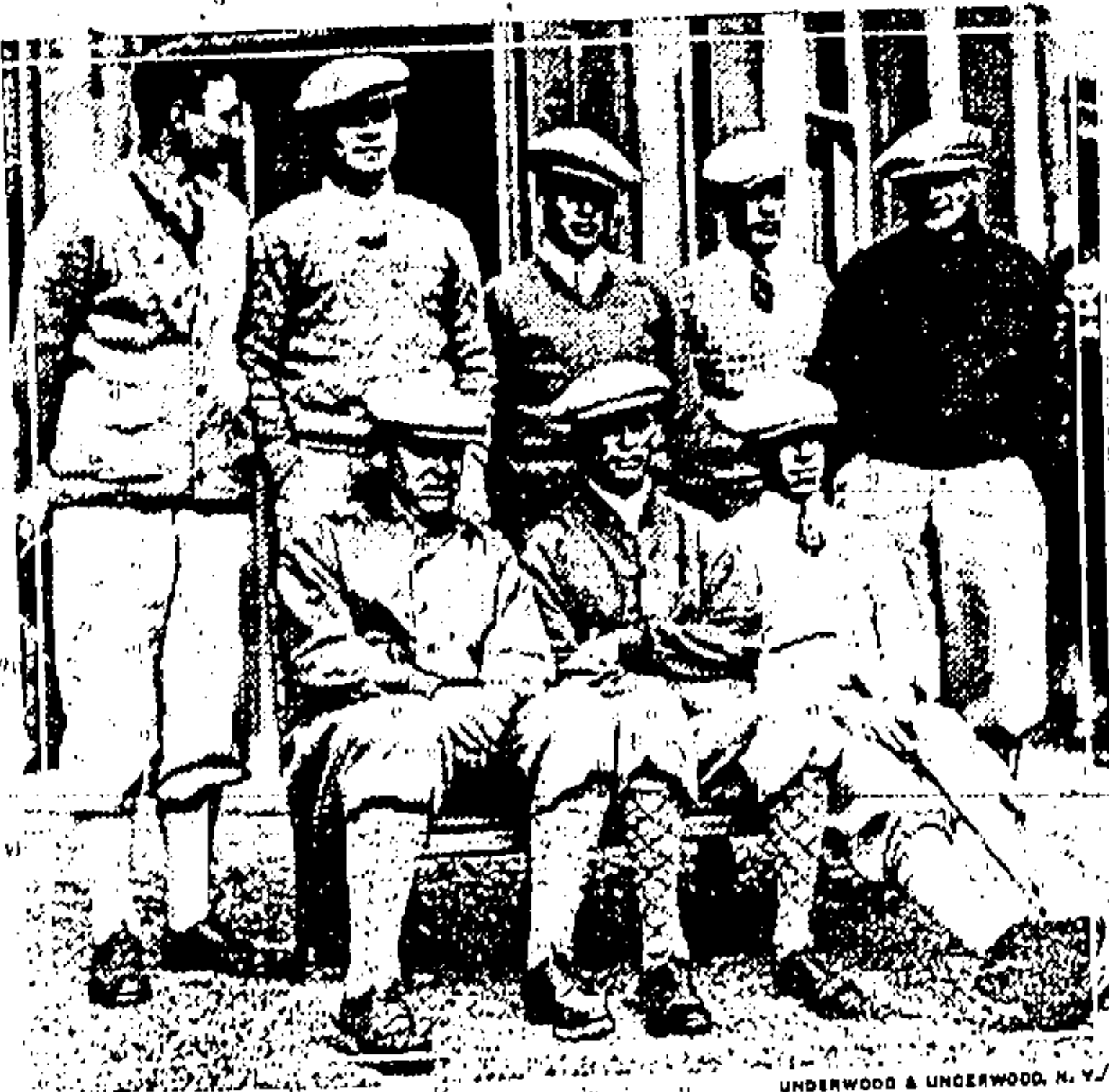
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People and Events in the News of the World



WILLIAM KING GUY D. COFF ROBERT LATOUBETTE CHARLES L. HENRY JAMES A. REED

These five Senators have been appointed to investigate huge expenditures in the recent Pennsylvania primary elections.



For the fifth consecutive year, ever since 1921, America's golfers have beaten Britain's in the Walker-Tennant Cup matches, played this year at St. Andrews. In the single match, America scored 34 points to Britain's 12, and they won the cup 6½ to 5½. Photo shows the American golfers, left to right, back row, R. MacKenzie, Jess Swetlow, R. T. Jones, Watts Gunn and G. von Elm; front row, J. Gairford, R. Gardiner and F. Ouimet.



Cadet William J. Baker, jun., of Clinton, Tennessee, ranked first in the graduating class of 152 at West Point. He scored 2804.16 out of a possible 2856 points.



Violet Anderson (20) accused two prominent New York theatrical men of attacking her. Nina Wilcox Putnam, the author, was a witness before the Grand Jury that investigated the case.



Earl Sande chosen by popular vote as the American turf's most popular jockey, was presented with a handsome cup signifying his victory in the contest by Mayor James J. Walker. Mrs. Sande was not forgotten, as a handsome bouquet was presented the wife of the little rider. Photo shows, left to right, Sam Hildreth, one of the racing's most successful trainers; Mrs. Sande, Jockey Earl Sande and Mayor Walker.



LORD RIDDELL

LORD BALFOUR



HAROLD J. RICHARDSON

PRINCESS ZITA

Lord Riddell, unofficial Government spokesman, predicted that there was no chance of a revolution in the recent British strike. Lord Balfour is still going strong in the Conservative Party. Mr. Harold J. Richardson is the new Grand Master of New York State Masons. Empress Zita rebuffed attempts of Mussolini to buy the famous diamond "Florentine" for the Italian Throne.



Gertrude Oimstead, cinema actress, is to marry Robert Z. Leonard, director and divorced husband of Mae Murray.



At the exercises of the West Point Military Academy, Major-General John L. Hines, Chief-of-Staff of the U.S. Army, congratulated Cadet W. C. Bakern, jun., of Clinton, Tennessee, the honour man who made 2804.16 points out of a possible 2856.

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JAPAN'S POLICY.

CAN THE TARIFF CONFERENCE
BE EXHUMED?

CHANGING TOWARDS CHINA.

Tokyo, July 24.
A Tokyo correspondent writing to the "N. C. Daily News" says: It is perhaps necessary to put the "Customs Conference" in Peking into the record, briefly, at this point because it definitely marks the change of policy—in fact the volte face of Japan—in her dealings with China.

In 1905 Japan went to war with China and defeated China crushingly. In the year 1908 China differed with Japan over what was known as "The Tatsu Maru Affair," when China caught a Japanese smuggling arms and baited the Tatsu Maru into limbo, after taking a pot shot or two at the little ship. Japan sent in an ultimatum, and had "to take it back," but that is another story.

Then in 1915 Japan sent in another ultimatum—the famous 21 demands, which after a period of excitement came to an end at Versailles.

The Lesson Learnt.
But all this time an element in Japan, an element which only came into actual control some three or four years ago, was opposed to the game of bluff versus China. They did not like the 21 demands, nor did they approve of an ultimatum with a string to it. They were wise and they won their way at last, strangely enough won it with the Kenseikai in power as it is to-day. The late Count Kato, then Baron Kato, was the head of the Kenseikai party then and Minister for Foreign Affairs when the 21 demands were made on China and were backed by an ultimatum. Count Kato had, however, learned a lesson in his 10 years of frustrated ambitions due entirely to his attempt at a "coup" with the 21 demands.

Baron Shidehara is a relation by marriage of Count Kato. He did not approve of the 21 demands; he had nothing to do with them. With the coming into office of Shidehara, the new policy developed in full strength and was welcomed on all sides.

But while the policy was approved the method in which it was demonstrated and the man who demonstrated it, did not have the confidence of that powerful element of Japanese or Chinese who realised the enormity of the blunder Count Kato had made in 1915.

Mr. Egi Hioki is back in Tokyo, from a prolonged stay in Peking as the High Commissioner of Japan to the Customs Conference which died or fell into a comatose state some weeks ago, after a lingering illness and was buried over-late but not quite deep enough.

Can It Be Disinterred?
Mr. Hioki has said he expects to return to Peking in August because he says the Customs Conference will be disinterred by that time and will "resume" business. According to Mr. Hioki the conference will begin again where it left off, which means that China has secured tariff autonomy from 1929.

In sporting circles, however, among those who are accustomed to think and take as few chances as possible, the odds are heavily against Mr. Hioki's predictions. The "wise guys" accept as true the unofficial dictum that the Conference is as dead as Hector and that only when a real government representing all China has been formed and recognised by the Powers and Governments interested in the future of China as creditors can an honest Conference meet again in Peking (or elsewhere) to consider the future fiscal and financial readjustment of the affairs of the bankrupt nation of the Orient.

This is not the first time Mr. Hioki has been on the defensive before the thinking element of his own people. It is not the first time he has been severely criticised for his zeal and fidelity as a Minister plenipotentiary. In the year 1915 as Japan's Minister to Peking, Mr. Hioki acting under orders, negotiated the Twenty-one Demands, the blunder worse than crime of the Okuma administration. Unfortunately those "Demands" will be associated with the name of Hioki through all the ages—unfortunately for him especially in the beginning and at the end of the recent diplomatic abortion known as the "China Customs Conference."

Twice a Scape-goat.
Mr. Hioki would have been a "distinguished diplomat" had he not been thus selected twice as a scape-goat. He is well intentioned, ambitious, somewhat over self-confident, but of most kindly disposition. Neither does he lack a comprehension of what is fundamentally needed; but he does lack "savoir faire" when it comes to the contact with the finer type of Western trained diplomat or even of the "heavenly Chinese." Many are very sorry for Mr. Hioki, but Baron Shidehara is in deadly

AT THE STAR.

"EMPTY CRADLE" AND
"TRUMPET ISLAND."

From to-day to Saturday "The Empty Cradle" and "Trumpet Island" will be shown at the Star Theatre.

The story of "The Empty Cradle," which is a screen adaptation of Leota Morgan's novel, "Cheating Wives," is a highly dramatic study of present-day social and domestic conditions. Burton King, the director, developed his story by masterfully contrasting the domestic problems of two families—the family that lived on the top of the hill, and the family which lived in its shadow. The subject matter is handled in an effective and telling way. Dramatic action is interspersed with many incidents which are delightfully humorous, and no matter how tense and serious the story may become, we know that within a few flickers of film we will all be lively again.

Bert Wheeler is responsible for much of the wholesome comedy, whilst the star players are the distinguished emotional artistes, Mary Alden and Harry T. Morey. "Trumpet Island" is what might be called a trilogy of love, in which a blase society girl takes a trip in an aeroplane to commit a spectacular suicide, but when the machine is wrecked she falls, on a privately owned island and meets the man of her dreams, who has adopted this retreat as his home, because he, too, wishes to get away from the artificialities of life among the moneyed mob. There is plenty of matter in the picture that will absorb attention and give that delight which is so frequently described as "thrill."



Mr. John S. Fisher is backed by Mellon interests as candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania.

earnest and believes in the man, the hour and the plan.

Field Marshal Generalissimo Wu Pei-fu and Field Marshal Chang Tso-lin, the Admiral Premier and the Admiral Minister for Foreign Affairs in Peking have been assured by Mr. Hioki that he doesn't intend to leave the ship until all hope has fled and "the last galoot's ashore."

The Extraterritorial Commission. There remains, of course, the Extraterritorial Commission of which Mr. Hioki of Japan and Mr. Strawn of the U.S.A. are among the members. The Commission so far has not reported anything. They are preparing their report, say the news agencies and the special correspondents, but so far no indication has been given as to the decisions or recommendations. It must be concluded, however, that the Commission, like the Customs Conference, will postpone a decision until "such time as China has a formal government recognised by the Powers concerned."

Meanwhile, Baron Shidehara and Mr. Hioki have made it quite clear that Japan has changed her policy which is now vis-a-vis and not versus China.

Kalgan, July 25.—Kalgan is in the grip of a smallpox epidemic which already has claimed many victims. The leading missionary hospital is refusing admission to many owing to a shortage of medical supplies. The situation is acute.

AT THE QUEEN'S.

"EXCUSE ME" SHOWING FOR
THREE DAYS.

"Excuse Me," a comedy, enacted in a Pullman car, will be screened at the Queen's Theatre from to-day till Saturday.

It was a famous stage farce by Rupert Hughes, and this indefatigable worker adapted his play and supervised its production for the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer organisation.

The familiarity of some of the audience for experiences on Pullman cars may make the misfortunes of the characters seem specially funny, but certain it is that the locale of the story—a train speeding across the American continent—seems a prolific one for the development of comedy, and it must be said that not Mr. Hughes nor director Alf Goulding have overlooked any opportunities of laughing.

"Excuse Me" is a swift, joyous farce, capably acted by an excellent cast. Norma Shearer plays Marjorie Newton, a society girl who is persuaded by her fiancé, Harry Mallory (Conrad Nagel), to take a chance of finding a minister on the train, so that she can accompany him as his wife to his new naval post in the Philippines.

The difficulty of finding the minister forms the centre of the amusing plot, but other interesting trouble and trouble-makers enter. One of the latter is Francine, an old friend of Harry, played by Renee Adoree, who is running away from her husband. She plans to fool any detectives who may be around, by having Harry pose as her husband. Her precocious child calls him "papa," just as Marjorie comes on them.

Bert Roach appears as a bibulous travelling salesman, and his acting is really funny. Walter Hiers is also amusing in the role of the long-suffering, and over-curious porter. Others in the cast include William V. Mong, John Boles, Edith York, and Eugene Cameron.

WORLD THEATRE.

"THE WHITE SISTER."

This picture, which will be screened at the World Theatre from to-day till Saturday, is an outstanding success for Lillian Gish. It was a boom film of three years ago and the story is well known; but as entertainment, it is well worthy of a second or even a third visit as those who saw the first run of the film will agree.

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